

Amendments to the Abstract:

In the English translation of the amended sheets, please add the abstract at page 25 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT

In one aspect a method for combining time-division multiplex signals in order to obtain a time-division multiplex signal, all of the signals having the same number on the periodic time-division multiplexed channels is provided. According to the method, a novel allocation of the content in non-occupied channels of the time-division multiplex signals is controlled in such a manner by a mutual time displacement of the content of occupied channels in the time-division multiplex signals, such that the combination thereof in the obtained time-division signal is collision free.

In another aspect an arrangement which is suitable for carrying out the method, wherein any particular two time-division multiplex signals, for example, multiple bit rates of 10, 40, 80, 120, 160, etc. GBit/s are combined in a collision free manner.--

A clean copy of the Abstract that incorporates the above amendments is provided herewith on a separate page.

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In one aspect a method for combining time-division multiplex signals in order to obtain a time-division multiplex signal, all of the signals having the same number on the periodic time-division multiplexed channels is provided. According to the method, a novel allocation of the content in non-occupied channels of the time-division multiplex signals is controlled in such a manner by a mutual time displacement of the content of occupied channels in the time-division multiplex signals, such that the combination thereof in the obtained time-division signal is collision free. In another aspect an arrangement which is suitable for carrying out the method, wherein any particular two time-division multiplex signals, for example, multiple bit rates of 10, 40, 80, 120, 160, etc. GBit/s are combined in a collision free manner.